



BOWLED OVER

IRIS STRIPLING

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2015

Created in 2009

Colored Pencil on Pastelboard

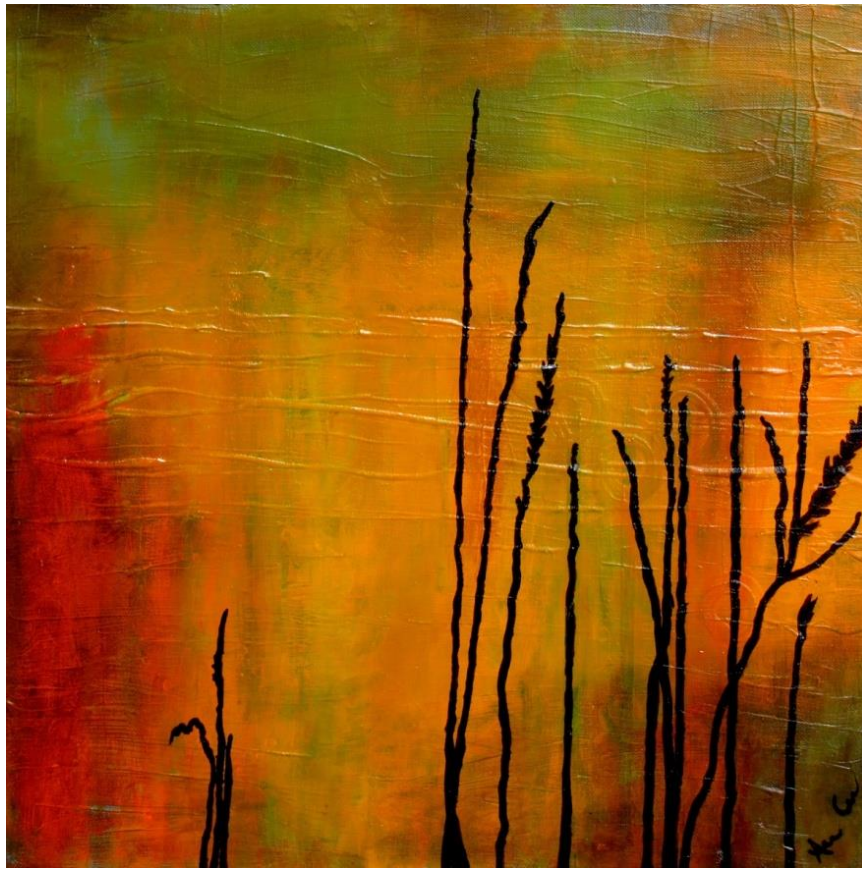
13.5 x 10.5 in

Iris Stripling has always had an interest in art, which she's expressed in a variety of ways. Primarily self-taught, she has developed a realist style, using several media, although she works primarily in colored pencil and watercolor. Her subjects cover a wide range including florals, still life and landscape. She is especially inspired by strong contrasts of light and shadow. Iris believes her talent is God-given and she strives to thank Him by portraying the beautiful detail work He has woven together to create our world.

Stripling has shown in several art galleries and many juried art shows, receiving numerous awards. She has exhibited a number of times in the annual International Colored Pencil Society Exhibition and is a charter and signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America. Her art has been featured in the following colored pencil art books: *Best of Colored Pencil 2*; *Best of Colored Pencil 3*; *Best of Colored Pencil 4*; *Creative Colored Pencil* and *Colored Pencil Society of America's Signature Showcase*.

At the time Stripling decided to do *Bowled Over*, she had been using cherries and other fruit as focal points in her work. As she often does, she first set up various compositions and took numerous photos. The pleasing way the light came through the crystal bowl settled Stripling on the final composition, which was altered to remove distracting background images. The piece was done on pastelboard, which has a sanded surface, and was varnished and framed without glass.

Stripling lives in Federal Way, Washington. See more of her work at WorksofArtbyIris.com.



BEAUTIFUL ENDING

ANETTE LUSHER-CREE

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2013

Created in 2012

Oil on canvas

21 x 17 in

On display at Covington City Hall

A sense of serenity is invoked by this representation of simple stalks of grass against a backdrop of vibrant colors. What might have been a static depiction, is avoided by the use of texture in the background, suggesting the ripples on water caused by an evening breeze.

Anette Lusher received her formal art training in Germany and holds a BA in Art/Photography. The recipient of numerous national and international awards, Lusher expresses herself through paint, mixed-media, and photography, and her zest for life is evident in all of her works. Her evocative, striking and textural paintings resonate with viewers on many levels. Lusher's works are included in corporate collections including Group Health Seattle, Trover Clinic in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Highline Community College, as well as in private collections around the world. She has been commissioned to create environmental public art installations, and in 2014, was included in a book titled "Green ART: Trees, Leaves and Roots" by Ashley E. Rooney. Lusher is Chair Emeritus for City of Fife Arts Commission. To see more of her work go to www.anettelusher.com.

In Lusher's words: *Beautiful Ending* honors nature, capturing the beautiful colors and calming moments of a sunset, and it reminds us to walk through life with open eyes. My motto is: "Watch a sunset and listen." I feel that I have portrayed exactly those words and emotions with this painting. The grasses seem to 'rustle' in the warm evening breeze of a fading day! What compelled me to apply texture to the background was the thought that life is layered and if one finds beauty in even the most difficult situation, one might reach that point where there is after all a "Beautiful Ending."



MOUNT RAINIER & LENTICULAR CLOUDS

DONAVON PREISER

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2011

Taken in 2010

Photograph

Size: 29" x 21"

On display at Covington City Hall

Anyone spending any time at all in the Pacific Northwest will have seen the unusual lenticular clouds that frequently form around Mount Rainier. This time-lapsed photograph captures the beauty of the snowclad mountain and the alien presence of the clouds on star filled night.

Born and raised in Washington State, Donavon Preiser was a high school student when his photo was selected for the City of Covington Purchase Award at the 2011 Art Show. Preiser's passion for photography began at the age of 10 when he received a gift of an old Kodak APS camera. Whenever he can, Donavon spends time at Mt Rainier National Park, snowshoeing and ice climbing in winter and hiking and backpacking in summer. He has twice completed the 93-mile Wonderland Trail that circumvents the mountain.

Preiser is drawn to both nature and human interest assignments, he specializes in nature and wildlife photography.

Sunset Magazine, Portland Monthly, AAA of Washington/Oregon/Idaho and Mt Rainier Guest Services have featured Donavon's photographs in their Mt Rainier advertising campaigns. Donavon participates in many local art festivals and bazaars, sells his work at the shops in Mt Rainier National Park and other locations, and via his website: www.donavonpreiserphotography.com.

The featured photograph was taken from Longmire in Mt Rainier National Park. It is a 13 second time lapse photograph taken under the stars of lenticular clouds formed earlier in the day over Mt Rainier. In Donavon's words: "As the sun set, the breeze subsided, the clouds dropped and settled against Eagle Peak, just to the right of the trees lit by a street lamp at the gate to Paradise. The clouds appear to some as flying saucers and to others as steam rising from a hot bowl of soup on a plate."



THE BEACH RIDE

DIANA GRANT

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2010

Created in 2010

Oil on canvas

21 x 17 in

On display at Covington City Hall

Despite the crashing surf, this oil painting suggests tranquility through the depiction of riders and horses dwarfed by an endless blue sky. A subtle color palette enhances the serenity of the scene.

Diana Grant's talent for drawing in elementary school lead to a recommendation that she attend the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York summer school program for young students. She later graduated from the University of Washington Architecture Program. After a brief career in passive solar architecture, she worked for 25 years for Seattle City Light in Energy Conservation and retired in September 2007. Over the years, she has studied art from a wide variety of teachers and venues, including the University of Washington and the Kirkland Art Center. Diana exhibits her art locally in a range of shows.

As a child, Grant spent summers traveling across the United States, visiting every major National Park and landmark. The experience fostered an appreciation for the endless gorgeous landscapes that unfolded through the car window, which then developed into a love of painting wide open spaces with lots of air. "The proportions of the land and sea against the sky and the signs of human activity have always fascinated me," Grant states. "In my painting, I work loosely to capture the essence of the scene, as if moving through it. Since these experiences are fleeting, space, color and texture are aspects I attempt to portray without overworking the visual impression."

The Beach Ride was done after a visit to the ocean on the Pacific Northwest Coast where a group of horseback riders and their dogs materialized as Diana sat in the dunes. As Grant described it, "They churned around for a bit in a group, then took direction and headed out." It was a beautiful summer day and Grant envied their ride along the shore.



LEAF SHADOWS ON THE WALL

KEN STRANGE

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2009

Created in 2007

Photograph

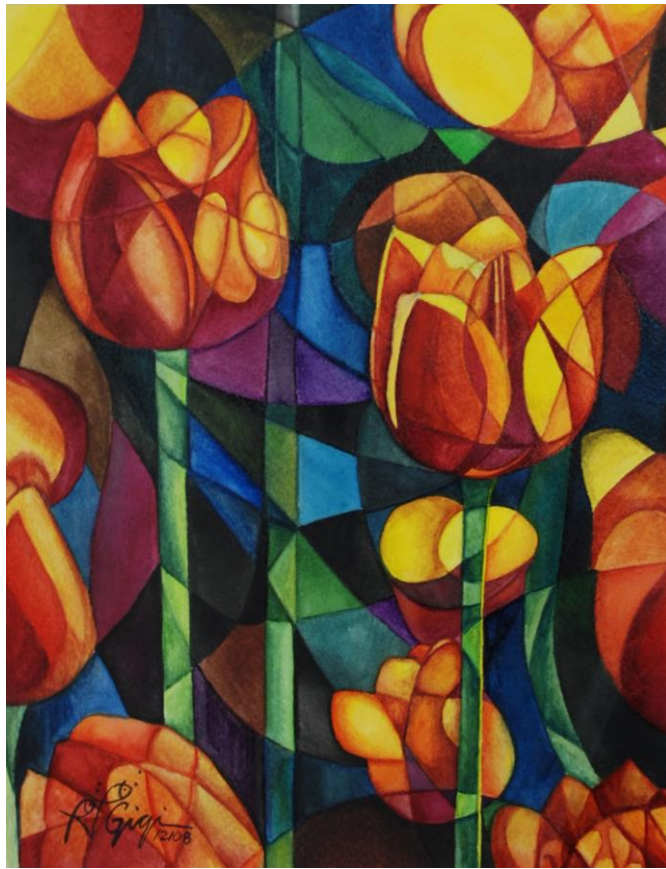
16 X 20 in

On display at Covington City Hall

In this manipulated photo, the blush tones and rough texture of the stucco wall form a pleasing background for the gray-green shadow image of leaves, with the fluid lines of the cracks echoed in the organic shapes of the branches. The image is reminiscent of oriental silk painting.

Ken Strange, who describes himself as an Expressionistic Fine Art Photographer, has been photographing extensively since 1998. His skills and creative styles were honed by studying under such photographic masters as Darrell Gulin, Art Wolfe, Vincent Versace, Jean Paul Caponigro, George Lepp, John Shaw and Andre Gallant to name but a few. Strange has received many awards for his work and images showcasing his unique creative style have been seen in many juried art shows throughout the state of Washington. Ken and his wife Lydia currently have an ongoing presence in two northwest art galleries and their works are also marketed on the web as <http://strangeimages.strange-domain.com>, at art shows and the annual Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup. The Stranges also co-lead an intensive field photographic workshop each year with "Canon Explorer of Light Photographer Darrell Gulin. Known as Gulin/Strange Photography Workshops, they are held at various locations throughout the US. As Strange Images, Ken and Lydia attempt to share their photographic passions by continuing to develop and show new techniques and styles for what they call their expressionistic photographic art. They work at photographing all facets of light hopeful that others will somehow feel the emotion, appreciate the artistic quality, acquire knowledge and/or be culturally enlightened by it.

Leaf Shadows on the Wall is an abstract image depicting leaf shadows projecting on a pastel colored wall. The artwork is presented as a modernistic photographic painting on a weathered stucco wall. This work was created by compositing, blending and modifying two separate images into the final product.



TULIPS and 1/2

GIGI PARANADA

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2009

Created in 2008

Watercolor

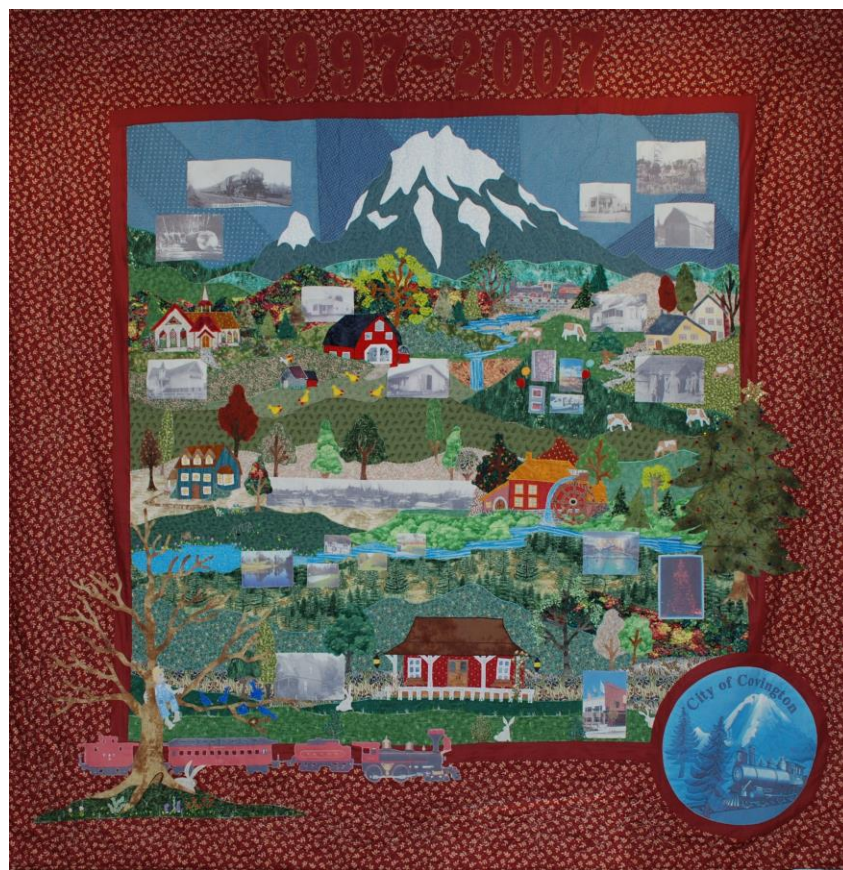
16 X 20 in

On display at Covington City Hall

This vibrant watercolor of tulips, in a composition reminiscent of stained glass, has a slight cubist feel. The piece earned the City Purchase Award at the 2009 Covington Days Festival Art Show.

Regina “Gigi” Libid-Paranada pursued her Bachelor Degree of Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. In 1986, she went to live in London where she worked in an accounting office. After she returned home in 1996 she reconnected with ten of her artist friends and did a Group Exhibit at the PNB Art Gallery in Manila entitled 10/tens, meaning ten friends ten years later. Paranada joined the Kent Valley Artists in May 2007 and since then she has been participating in local fairs and art competitions where she has won several awards. In addition to watercolor, Paranada works in oils and pencil

Tulips was inspired by a trip to the Roozengaarde Display Gardens in Mount Vernon, the site of the renowned Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. “It was a very unusual sunny day,” Paranada explained. “I just loved how the rays of the sun penetrated through each petal of the tulips. It was like looking through a stained glass window.”



CITY OF COVINGTON QUILT

ROSIE KENNEDY

Commissioned by the City of Covington in 2007

Created in 2007

Fabric, floss and ribbon

72 x 70 in

On display at Covington City Hall

The quilt was created solely by Rosie Kennedy using machine applique and quilting, and embellished with hand embroidery in floss and silk ribbon. Kennedy based the design on a Piecemakers quilt created by members of the Covington Quilters Guild.

The Covington quilt was commissioned by Mayor Margaret Harto. At the Covington Quilters Guild annual show in 2007, Mayor Harto's attention was drawn to the raffle quilt celebrating the anniversary of the Golden Spike at Promontory Point, Utah. She was struck by how much the scenery represented looked like Covington. Harto approached the Guild about creating a quilt depicting Covington for the city's 10th anniversary. Lori George, Guild president at the time, selected Rosie Kennedy to create the quilt. Kennedy then met with the Covington Arts Commission to determine the quilt content. She was supplied with photos and valuable information by the city's historian and Chamber of Commerce. Kennedy incorporated buildings, trees and trains to represent Covington's early role as a stop for Northern Pacific Railway trains moving logs across Stampede Pass, and subsequent home of the Covington Lumber Company. Such local scenes as Jenkins Park & Creek and the city's original seal are used to depict Covington's first 10 years of cityhood.

Rosie Kennedy is a prolific quilter, who has garnered numerous awards at Northwest quilt shows, including a Grand Champion ribbon at the Washington State Fair. Self-taught, Kennedy began quilting in the 1980s, starting with traditional patterns and then moving into art quilting. "I learn best by experimentation and 'mistakes', Kennedy states, "and some of my 'mistakes' turn into my best work!" Over the years she has made lots of quilts for the "Hugs" group in the guild and has donated many to various groups for auctions, including the Maple Valley Friends of the Library and Christian Woman's Connection.

The Covington Quilters Guild held their first official meeting in April, 1995 at the Maple Valley Community Center. The group meets monthly and produces an annual show featuring judged quilts. The show was once part of the Covington Days celebration, but has since broken away and typically occurs the following week.



SPACE NO. 1

JACQUELINE ARGUETA

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2007

Created in 2007

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 16 in

On display at Covington City Hall

A stark white grid separates and by contrast highlights blocks of textures and details from nature. The elements are arranged as they are in nature, with the ground at the bottom and the night sky at the top.

Artist Jacqueline Argueta was a student at Kentwood High School when she created this piece and showed it in the Covington Days Art Show where it won a purchase award. Argueta was encouraged by her art teacher to participate in local shows, and the year after she exhibited this piece, had another purchased by MultiCare. She went on to pursue her education at The Evergreen State College with a focus on multimedia communications, including art and design. Argueta was residing in Seattle at the time of this writing, and works mostly on non-representational pieces. This piece could be considered the start of her experimentation into that area.

Argueta explains that she was inspired by nature, with each panel representing an element. She strove to depict the symmetry of nature and the interaction of different colors within the space.



OUT TO LUNCH

DONNA NESBITT

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2004

Created in 2004

Oil

16 x 20.5 in

On display at Covington City Hall

You can almost hear the hum of a busy marketplace surrounding these two girls. Sharing a bite to eat, they've staked out an island of calm amid the buckets of flowers. The rich browns of the background and the vibrant turquoise of the bench, along with the colorful blooms create a sense of warmth on what was probably a cool day.

Donna Nesbitt has lived in the Covington area for over 50 years. Art has been Nesbitt's passion since childhood. She has trained with various teachers and has taken classes in art at the college level. Nesbitt's oil paintings have been accepted in many juried shows. She maintains a small studio and spends many enjoyable hours painting there.

"Out To Lunch" was painted as a result of one of many trips to Mexico.. The markets in Mexico inspired Nesbitt with their bright colors.



THE GARDEN

KELSEY McKRACKEN

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2003

Created in 2003

Watercolor

14 x 16 in

On display at Covington City Hall

This watercolor depicts a garden full of life – a cat basking in a sunny spot, birds pecking at seed, geese, and of course abundant flowers and plants set off by the textures of the hard pavers and stone wall. The piece earned the City Purchase Award at the 2003 Covington Days Festival Art Show.

Kelsey McCracken was born and raised in the Auburn/Enumclaw area and was just 14 when her watercolor piece, *The Garden*, was purchased by the City of Covington. McCracken's artistic abilities were apparent at a young age and throughout school she won many awards. These include 1st place two years in a row at the Ben Franklin Art Exhibit, as well as numerous Peoples' Choice awards at local competitions. Some of her art can be found at anewperspective.etsy.com. You will also find her art at local street fairs.

For *The Garden*, McCracken drew on her imagination to enhance a photo. "Creativity and art have been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember," McCracken wrote on her Etsy home page. "I love painting, photography, illustration, reading and classic literature, writing, color, drawing, music, the seasons, rain, snow, coffee, and my family. My work reflects who I am and what I love."



COVINGTON SURVIVOR

LYDIA SUTTON

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2003

Created in 2002

Oil on Paper

20 x 24 in

This oil painting captures dramatic morning light as it highlights the rich fall colors of an old oak tree and surrounding countryside, with just the barest reflection in the quiet creek. The piece earned the City Purchase Award at the 2003 Covington Days Art Show.

Lydia Sutton began her art career as an apprentice to photographer/painter Heinrich Haas, in the city of Trier in Germany, where she was born and raised. Sutton graduated from a photography school where she also worked for several years before married life took her all over Europe and the United States. During her travels she took advantage of opportunities to study painting with many wonderful masters. Although trained in the classical style, her work tends toward the more impressionistic. Her preferred medium is oil, but Sutton is not locked into any one medium or subject. She has participated in countless shows and won numerous awards, as well as taught oil painting.

The tree depicted in Covington Survivor caught Sutton's interest at a time when the city was going through significant change – losing much of its rural land to commercial use. Standing on the banks of Jenkins Creek, near the Covington Way bridge, the tree seemed to proclaim that it was a survivor. Living nearby, Sutton spent a lot of time photographing the tree that October in a variety of light. The painting was done partially from those photos and partially on location. “Only by painting outside,” Sutton says, “can one really capture the atmosphere and the warm sunlight filtering through the leaves. That’s the way I remember that beautiful October morning.”



NORTH COVINGTON BARN

MARGARET FREDERICK

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2001

Created in 2000

Photograph

28.5 x 36 in

On display at Covington City Hall

Mount Rainier rises above a bank of low clouds, while the evening sun bathes both the magnificent mountain and a rustic barn with golden light, capturing a scene from the rural side of Covington. The photo earned the City Purchase Award at the Covington Days Art Show in 2001.

Margie Frederick has been a Covington resident since the late 1960s when such rural scenes were more prevalent. She began taking serious photos in the early 1990s following a Basic Photo Class at Renton Vocational School. Her work has been displayed at many area art shows, competitions with the Photographic Society of America's local chapter, Boeing Employee's Photographic Society, and more recently in the Artists in Action division of the Puyallup Fair. She is now retired and traveling and not showing her work as frequently.

"I took many photos of that barn," Frederick stated, "before I got the light the way I wanted."



DREAM BREEZE

MIKAELA YAGER DARNER

Purchased by the City of Covington in 2001

Created in 2004

Ceramic sculpture

City of Covington Archive

If you were to focus in on two blades of wheat in a field as they swayed in a gentle breeze, you might capture an image much like this sculpture created by placing together two flat, fluid, opposing shapes. Fired, the once fragile forms gain strength and permanence.

Mikaela Yager Darner has been creating art in all media her entire life. She was home schooled and went to an art academy from ages 7 through 12. She then attended Cedar Heights Junior High and Kentlake High School, taking painting, ceramics and photography. Mikaela continued her art education at Green River Community College, embracing black and white photography, graphic arts, ceramics and watercolor painting. "I use art as my personal escape," Darner states.

It was while she was at Kentlake that she created the idea, sculpted and fired the piece *Dream Breeze*. "*Dream Breeze* is composed of fragile pieces," Darner explains, "but after firing became strong. Like dreams, being so light and seeming so insignificant, but they can help sculpt us and strengthen our character."